

REMARKS

Introductory Remarks

Claims 17 is the only claim currently pending in the application. In view of the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Obviousness Type Double Patenting

Claim 17 stands rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting over claims 8 and 12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,869,455. The present application and U.S. Patent No. 6,869,455 are currently commonly owned and were commonly owned at the time of the present invention. A terminal disclaimer with respect to U.S. Patent No. 6,869,455 accompanies this reply. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the obviousness type double patenting rejection.

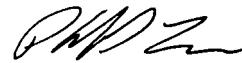
Extension of Time

A Petition for a three (3)-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) is filed herewith. It is not believed that any further extensions of time are required other than those in the accompanying Petition. If extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned for under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a). Any fees required for extensions of time and any fees for the net addition of claims are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 503310.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the stated objections and grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this Reply, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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